



BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS (1991-2006)

Biography

Blessed Carlo Acutis was born in London on 3 May 1991 and died in Monza between 11 and 12 October 2006 as a result of acute leukemia. He loved to say that “Sadness is the gaze directed inwards, while happiness is the gaze directed toward God”. “God and not me”, “Not love of oneself but the Glory of God” were his favorite short prayers. For Carlo, “Our aim has to be the infinite and not the finite”. Regarding this, he wrote: “Conversion is nothing more than lifting our gaze upwards, a simple movement of the eyes is enough”. His entire life was a struggle to overcome his defects and to live ever more heroically the virtues of Faith, Hope and Love for God and our neighbors. Carlo used to say: “What is the point of winning a thousand battles if we can't win the battle with ourselves and our corrupt passions?”. His spiritual journey was based on two pillars: the Eucharist and Our Lady. He honored the Virgin Mary by reciting the Rosary daily and he had consecrated himself to her Immaculate Heart, as suggested to him by Our Lady at Fatima. In order to make others know the Eucharist, which he called his “highway to heaven”, he designed an exhibition on the Eucharistic miracles that had occurred across the world throughout the centuries. It was hosted in thousands of parishes the world over. He attended Holy Mass daily and liked to pause for some time before or after Mass, before the Tabernacle, in adoration of the Lord Jesus, truly present in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Pope Francis wrote the following about Blessed Carlo Acutis in his Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Christus Vivit*, addressed to young people and to the entire People of God, dated 25 March 2019: I remind you of the good news we received as a gift on the morning of the resurrection: that in all the dark or painful situations that we mentioned, there is a way out. For example, it is true that the digital world can expose you to the risk of self-absorption, isolation and empty pleasure. But don't forget that there are young people even there who show creativity and even genius. That was the case with the Venerable Carlo Acutis. Carlo was well aware that the whole apparatus of communications, advertising and social networking can be used to lull us, to make us addicted to consumerism and buying the latest thing on the market, obsessed with our free time, caught up in negativity. Yet he knew how to use the new communications technology to transmit the Gospel, to communicate values and beauty. Carlo didn't fall into the trap. He saw that many young people, wanting to be different, really end up being like everyone else, running after whatever the powerful set before them with the mechanisms of consumerism and distraction. In this way they do not bring forth the gifts the Lord has given them; they do not offer the world those unique personal talents that God has given to each of them. As a result, Carlo said, “All people are born as originals but many die as photocopies”. Don't let that happen to you!

Today, more than ever, there is the risk of chasing the false sirens that the world offers to us and Carlo, who knew how to wisely oppose and overcome the great challenges and snares of our days, can help us through his example and his intercession, not to lose that original and only plan that God has in store for each of us, from eternity. Especially now that he lives in the beatitude of Heaven, he continuously intercedes for his peers, for families, for those who are lost and for those in need and those who suffer. Many people around the world testify that they have received graces and miracles through prayers addressed to Carlo. Now that Pope Francis has declared him Blessed, let us pray to him so that he can help us be authentic witnesses of the Risen One, like he was. ■